



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

June 23, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

PROSECUTION OF CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS

On June 1, 2004, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, your Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to request the District Attorney to deputize individuals in the Office of the County Counsel to allow for direct filing of criminal prosecutions of code enforcement violations. In addition, your Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel to develop a proposal including required ordinance amendments for enhancement of the County's civil remedies to achieve code compliance and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a funding recommendation to establish a code enforcement unit within the Office of the County Counsel.

Consistent with this action, the Chief Administrative Office issued the attached memorandum to the District Attorney on June 8, 2004, requesting an arrangement that would provide County Counsel the ability to exercise some limited additional authority related to the filing of criminal prosecutions under specific circumstances. During the June 21, 2004 Budget Deliberations, your Board approved the Final Change adjustment reflecting the funding for the Code Enforcement Unit in County Counsel. The Code Enforcement Unit will consist of three attorneys, a paralegal, and a clerical position at an annual cost of \$593,000.

Each Supervisor
June 23, 2004
Page 2

My office will continue to work with County Counsel to develop recommendations to modify the County Code, develop legislation, and/or take other action as needed to implement the changes. Ongoing activities in this regard include a review of the operations of other jurisdictions, including the City of Glendale, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego, to identify best practices and opportunities to improve the code enforcement program in the County of Los Angeles.

If you have any questions regarding the progress of this initiative, please contact me, or your staff may contact Martin Zimmerman of this office at (213) 974-1326 or via e-mail at mzimmerman@cao.co.la.ca.us or Roberta Fesler of County Counsel at (213) 974-1861 or via e-mail at rfesler@counsel.co.la.ca.us.

DEJ:MKZ
DD: os

Attachment (1)

c: District Attorney
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel



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June 8, 2004

To: Steve Cooley *Steve,*
District Attorney

From: David E. Janssen *David*
Chief Administrative Officer

DIRECT FILING OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS BY COUNTY COUNSEL – CODE ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS

On June 1, 2004, the Board adopted the attached motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky instructing the Chief Administrative Officer to request the District Attorney to deputize individuals in the Office of the County Counsel to allow for direct filing of criminal prosecutions of code enforcement violations. Based on discussions with staff from County Counsel, this request includes a recommendation to jointly develop specific criteria governing that arrangement, including presentation of individual cases to your staff prior to exercising any authority granted by the deputization.

Consistent with recommendations contained in your March 5, 2004 letter to each Supervisor, involved departments are working collaboratively to develop an approach that would utilize County Counsel to enforce the County Code through civil actions. In addition, we acknowledge and appreciate your offer to file code enforcement cases utilizing filing deputies at your regional or area offices. However, we are interested in exploring an arrangement that would provide County Counsel the ability to exercise some limited additional authority related to the filing of criminal prosecutions under specific circumstances.

It is our understanding that similar arrangements exist or are in the process of being implemented in other jurisdictions to improve the effectiveness of the overall code enforcement process. We are, therefore, requesting your cooperation in working jointly with County Counsel and involved departments to explore the feasibility of developing an agreement between the District Attorney and County Counsel that would provide

District Attorney Steve Cooley
June 8, 2004
Page 2

County Counsel with authority to file criminal prosecutions under specific circumstances. While we believe an effective arrangement can be reached that would provide for ongoing authority, thereby improving consistency and minimizing administrative requirements, arrangements could also be discussed that consider limited authority on a case-by-case basis.

Staff from County Counsel and my office will be available to discuss this request further with your staff. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me, or your staff may contact Martin Zimmerman of this office at (213) 974-1326 or via e-mail at mzimmerman@cao.co.la.ca.us or Roberta Fesler of County Counsel at (213) 974-1861 or via e-mail at rfesler@counsel.co.la.ca.us.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

DEJ:MKZ
DD:os

Attachment

c: Each Supervisor
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors